



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

News Release

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Contact: Craig McLaughlin, State Board of Health, (360) 236-4106

Dissolution of Health District, School Air Quality Top March Agenda for State Board of Health

Wednesday, March 12, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Phoenix Inn, 415 Capitol Way N, Olympia, Wash.

Olympia—At its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 13 in Olympia, the State Board of Health will hear from Clark County officials about their decision to dissolve the Southwest Washington Health District in response to tightening state and local budgets. The health district serves Clark and Skamania counties. In February, the Clark County Commissioners announced their decision to reorganize health services by dissolving the health district in January 2003 and by planning immediately for Clark County to directly provide county residents with public health services currently provided by the district.

The Board will also hear from the Washington Department of Health, the Washington Education Association and concerned parents on school indoor air quality. In recent years, air quality concerns have resulted in school closings and remediation in Cle Elum, Gig Harbor, and other districts.

The Board will consider a plan for new work on health disparities that includes a continuing collaboration with the American Indian Health Commission to develop an American Indian health initiative in memory of Sue Crystal, the late Health Care Authority administrator and expert on health care policy and Native American issues.

The meeting will include a 10 a.m. public hearing on a proposed rule revision that would allow all service animals, not just dog guides, in food service establishments.

Copies of the agenda and related materials are available by contacting the Board of Health at (360) 236-4110 or by visiting the Board's Web site at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/>.

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The State Board of Health serves the citizens of Washington by working to understand and prevent disease across the entire population. Established in 1889 by the State Constitution, the Board provides leadership by suggesting public health policies and actions, by regulating certain activities, and by providing a public forum. The governor appoints ten members who fill three-year terms. Visit the board's Web site at www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/.